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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-fifth session
(3-5 May 2000)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 3 May 2000

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Policy/High Level Segment: 3-4 May

2. Greater cohesion within the ECE region

   (a) The economic regeneration of South East Europe
   (b) Possibilities of increasing regional cooperation

3. Operational activities: Re-thinking the strategy

General Segment: 5 May

4. Cross-sectoral and intersectoral concerns: Update on developments with the participation of the Chairpersons of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies

5. Contributing to global debates and events

6. Matters arising from the work of the subsidiary bodies requiring decision by the Commission

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7. Report on the work of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work

8. Election of Officers

9. Other business

10. Adoption of the report.

Time	Agenda item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
3 May 10 a.m.	**Item 1** Adoption of the agenda	Chairman of the Commission	The adoption of the agenda will be followed by opening remarks by the Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Commission and the Executive Secretary.	E/ECE/1375
a.m./ p.m.	**Item 2** Greater cohesion within the ECE region **(a)** The economic regeneration of South East Europe	Chairman and Executive Secretary	The discussion under item 2(a) will draw upon the Spring Seminar's general debate on the transition process after ten years, focussing on South East Europe where the process of creating market economies has proved more difficult than in certain other countries. The discussion will be structured around three sub-themes: (i) Long-term strategy for South East Europe (ii) International support for South East Europe (iii) The political context for regional cooperation Each segment will be introduced by a Lead Speaker. The ensuing discussion, which will benefit from the conclusions of the previous day's seminar on the transition process after ten years, will involve representatives of Governments and other partners of ECE, including OSCE and the Council of Europe.	

Time	Agenda item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
4 May a.m.	**Item 2 (b)** Possibilities of increasing regional cooperation	Executive Secretary	Building on the debate during the Seminar and the preceding day, the discussion under Item 2(b) will focus on how the work of the regional entities and sub-regional groupings can be further developed and made more coherent so as to contribute to economic development throughout Europe. Debate under this item will include reactions from Governments, representatives of OSCE, the Council of Europe, sub-regional groupings, initiatives and programmes.	E/ECE/1376
4 May p.m.	**Item 3** Operational activities: Re-thinking the strategy	Executive Secretary	The Commission will have before it a note which examines how the secretariat can better focus and organize its operational activities according to a better-defined strategy.	E/ECE/1377

Time	Agenda item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
5 May a.m.	**Item 4** Cross-sectoral and intersectoral concerns: Update on developments with the participation of the Chairpersons of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies	Executive Secretary	Of the four cross-sectoral concerns identified in the Plan of Action, the two scheduled to be reviewed at the fifty-fifth session are the "involvement of the business community in ECE activities" and the "special concern for the economies in transition". Document E/ECE/1377 on operational activities addresses the latter while document E/ECE/1378 provides information on the involvement of the business community in ECE's activities during the past year. Document E/ECE/1378 also provides updated information on intersectoral linkages within the Commission, e.g. transportation/environment, environment/ energy, transportation/environment (ECE) and health (WHO).	E/ECE/1378

Time	Agenda item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
5 May a.m.	**Item 5** Contributing to global debates and events	Executive Secretary	Document E/ECE/1379 brings to the attention of the Commission the decision of the General Assembly to accept the offer of the Government of Germany to host a regional Ministerial Conference on Ageing under the aegis of ECE and invites the Commission to decide to hold this Conference in Berlin in September 2002, pursuant to the offer of the Government of Germany. A framework for the preparatory process leading up to this Conference is also suggested. The same document provides information on other activities of the Commission which have been undertaken at the request of global bodies including brief summary of the ECE Regional preparatory meeting for the 2000 Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. In this connection, the Commission is requested to endorse the outcome agreed to at the meeting. The document also summarizes the contribution of the Regional Commissions to UNCTAD X.	E/ECE/1379

Time	Agenda item	Introduction	Explanatory Notes	Documentation
5 May a.m.	**Item 6** Matters arising from the work of the subsidiary bodies requiring decision by the Commission	Executive Secretary	Document E/ECE/1380 brings to the attention of the Commission any matters arising from the work of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies which require decision by the Commission.	E/ECE/1380
5 May a.m.	**Item 7** Report on the work of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work	Chairman of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work	Under this item, the Chairman of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work will brief the Commission on the work undertaken by the Group since the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.	--
5 May p.m.	**Item 8** Election of Officers **Item 9** Other business **Item 10** Adoption of the report	Chairman Rapporteur		-- Draft report prepared during the Commission session